



Traffic Safety & Traffic Calming Application Frequently Asked Questions



Why do I have to submit a petition when completing the Traffic Calming Application and how many signatures do I need?

A traffic calming assessment concerns a residential neighborhood block and any measures installed that will affect neighbors on the block, therefore 75% of households on the block are required to sign a petition to establish minimum neighborhood support and consensus as part of the assessment application. Only one signature per household will be considered. It is important to understand that a completed petition doesn't necessarily guarantee that calming measures will be installed on the study street, but it does allow the District to proceed with a traffic study knowing that there is a consensus among residents.

Can I submit a Traffic Calming Application for traffic concerns on my neighbor's block?

No. All petitioners of a Traffic Calming Application must live on the block where there are traffic concerns.

Should I submit a Traffic Calming Application if traffic concerns on my block are a result of a missing street sign or faded cross strips?

If there is a missing sign or faded crosswalk markings causing traffic concerns on your block, you should submit a 311 request via phone or online and DDOT will address those concerns within the Service Level Agreement (SLA). The Residential Traffic Calming Program is primarily concerned with excessive vehicular speeds on volume on local residential streets.

If I already have signage, speed humps or other physical measures on my block but there are still instances of speeding or disobeying of the posted signage, what should I do?

Traffic Enforcement plays a big role in reducing these kinds of incidents. Residents are encouraged to reach out to the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) for enforcement support around the concern area.

My neighbors and I asked for a four-way STOP sign at our intersection, however, we noticed there is new signage and no stop sign. Why?

The federal standard on traffic control devices provides that multi-way stop control (or four-way stops) can be useful as a safety measure at intersections if certain traffic conditions exist. However, it should not be used indiscriminately and requires an engineering study to determine its suitability at each location. DDOT conducts data-based studies and if an intersection does not meet the requirements, installation of a four-way stop sign is not recommended. However, less restrictive measures (such as additional signs and markings) are usually considered and often address safety concerns and accommodate traffic demands more efficiently.

My neighbors and I petitioned for a stop sign to address speeding in my neighborhood, but DDOT denied it. Why?

There are many reasons why DDOT may install or deny a request for a stop sign. The basic purpose of stop signs is to assign right of way at an intersection. Stop signs are requested by residents more than any other traffic control device for the reduction of vehicle speeds and traffic volumes. Unfortunately, studies have shown that stop signs are largely ineffective in meeting the residents' request for speed control. In fact, the overuse of stop signs may result in low compliance, and at the same time can give pedestrians a false sense of safety if it is assumed that all vehicles will come to a complete stop at the proper location.

Why is it taking so long for DDOT to address the traffic concerns in my neighborhood?

All traffic concerns which result in a traffic safety or traffic calming assessment have a service level agreement of 120 days. This period allows for DDOT staff to review the initial application ensuring its completeness, engage with the petitioners on the concerns, conduct data collection activities that are limited to certain days and times, and complete a thorough study.

What is the difference between the Traffic Safety and the Traffic Calming Assessments?

The Traffic Safety Assessment and Traffic Calming Assessment applications are both intake forms for concerns around traffic affecting District residents. However, the most fundamental traffic calming goal is to reduce the speed of vehicular movement and/or volume concerns on local residential streets. The Traffic Safety Application is used to sensitize DDOT on other traffic-related safety issues. This may include addressing frequent crashes at an intersection or pedestrian safety issues.



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Can I call or email DDOT to tell them about traffic concerns in my neighborhood?

Absolutely! DDOT staff is always willing to hear traffic concerns, however, in order for DDOT to properly track, study, and respond to concerns regarding traffic in your neighborhood, a service request must be submitted, or a traffic safety or traffic calming application completed.

My neighbors and I would like a speed camera on our block to catch vehicles speeding down our block, can DDOT install these cameras?

DDOT does not install speed cameras. Speed cameras are automated enforcement tools and any request of this nature should be directed to the Metropolitan Police Department.

I have not heard anything from DDOT regarding my Traffic Safety/Traffic Calming application. Should I call to check on the application?

Throughout the 120 service level agreement, DDOT staff may have touch points with residents. A DDOT representative will meet with the petitioner in the early stages of the process to get a better understanding of the issues and get a clear sense of the scope of the concerns. After this meeting, DDOT engineers will be gathering data and conducting the studies, so residents may or may not hear from DDOT within the 120 days. If the 120 days pass and you have not gotten an official response indicating the findings and recommendations of the study, then please contact DDOT at (202) 671 2800.